

House Resolution 14

By: Representative Brooks of the 55th

A RESOLUTION

1 Honoring Mr. Eugene Patterson for his contributions to the Civil Rights Movement; and for
2 other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Eugene Patterson was born on October 15, 1923, in Valdosta, Georgia; and

4 WHEREAS, he served as executive editor of both the *Atlanta Journal* and *Atlanta*
5 *Constitution* from 1956 to 1960, and as editor of the *Atlanta Constitution* from 1960 to 1968,
6 and was considered a beacon of progressive reform in the segregationist South; and

7 WHEREAS, known for his integrity, intelligence, and fairness, he stalwartly refused to
8 publish FBI reports about the private life of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., deeming
9 it "not our kind of journalism"; and

10 WHEREAS, when approached by the FBI to discredit Reverend King by publishing
11 information received through tapping and bugging operations, Mr. Patterson referred to the
12 story as "back-alley gossip" and rebuffed numerous attempts to have the story printed; and

13 WHEREAS, Mr. Patterson won a Pulitzer Prize in 1967 for his editorials supporting civil
14 rights for African Americans and combating white demagogues in Georgia and throughout
15 the South; and

16 WHEREAS, he gave inspiration to many through his high ideals, morals, and optimism about
17 the goodness of humanity, and the deep concern he demonstrated for his fellow citizens,
18 regardless of race, was admired by others.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
20 the members of this body join in honoring Mr. Eugene Patterson for his contributions to
21 equality and civil rights.